



Habitats

interior rivers and streams

Iowa Status

uncommon; exotic

Iowa Range

northeast Iowa

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.

rainbow trout

Oncorhynchus mykiss

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Family:	Salmoniformes
Order:	Salmonidae

Features

The average weight of a rainbow trout is one-half pound in streams. The average length is 10 to 15 inches. The back of this fish is olive green, the sides are silvery with a pink stripe, and the belly is silvery. Spots are present on the dorsal and caudal fins. The tail is forked. The adipose (fat) fin has a black edge.

Natural History

The rainbow trout is native to western streams, but is stocked in coldwater streams in northeast Iowa. It eats insects, snails, and small fish in the wild. It reaches maturity at age three. Two strains of fish, fall and winter spawners, are reared in Iowa. Females spawn from 2,500 to 10,000 eggs depending on their size and age. Eggs hatch in 30 days. Fish are fed to produce 10-inch, half-pound fish for stocking in 17 to 24 months. Most fish taken in Iowa are about one-half pound.